

The average number of beds occupied in the present Infirmary for the last year or two, September to June, was less than two per diem. This average is inclusive of the threatened measles epidemic. It is our opinion that it would not be wise to reduce the number of beds, but we propose to change the locale of the Infirmary to the Southeast Wing, ground floor, of the Women's Residence. This will not mean that the Residence proper will be deprived of any accommodation, but in case of an epidemic of measles, scarlet fever, or some such disease, the whole situation can be handled with a minimum of danger of its spreading, due to the fact that the entire Wing containing accommodation for some twenty students (or ten rooms) could be isolated completely from the other rooms in the Residence. We cannot afford to carry a second building as an Isolation Hospital for possible out-breaks. We believe that the Hospital facilities at Macdonald College are commensurate with our needs, serious epidemics excepted.

You go on to say "the opinion was expressed that the School for Teachers has a prior claim upon the accommodation of Macdonald College."

This is not for a moment admitted by us.

From the history of the College, I doubt if Sir William Macdonald at first intended that it should include a Teachers' College. Sir William began to buy his land in 1903, and continued purchases until 1906. I find that in the evidence of Dr. J.W. Robertson before the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization, Dr. Robertson made the following statement:

".....Macdonald College has grown out of these attempts and accomplishments, these trials and experiments and evidences of progress, as well as out of Sir William Macdonald's keen desire to help the rural population to build up the country and to make the most of it and themselves. In some measure it grew out of the school garden movement and the consolidated schools, to serve as a headquarters for the training of leaders. In some measure it grew out of the manual training movement, which is a first necessity in the general education of pupils if they are to profit by technical and industrial education afterwards. In some measure it grew out of the oft-expressed desire on the part of the educational leaders over the whole Dominion for such advancement and improvement of education for rural communities as would not only prepare the children for life at its best in rural occupations, but would also satisfy the people as being the right training for their children. In consequence it was founded, erected and equipped for the following among other purposes: